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Memorials of the Late
Elder William Curry King

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Memorials

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"The memory of the just is blessed."—Proverbs 10:7

BRIEF HISTORY OF BUSH ARBOR CHURCH

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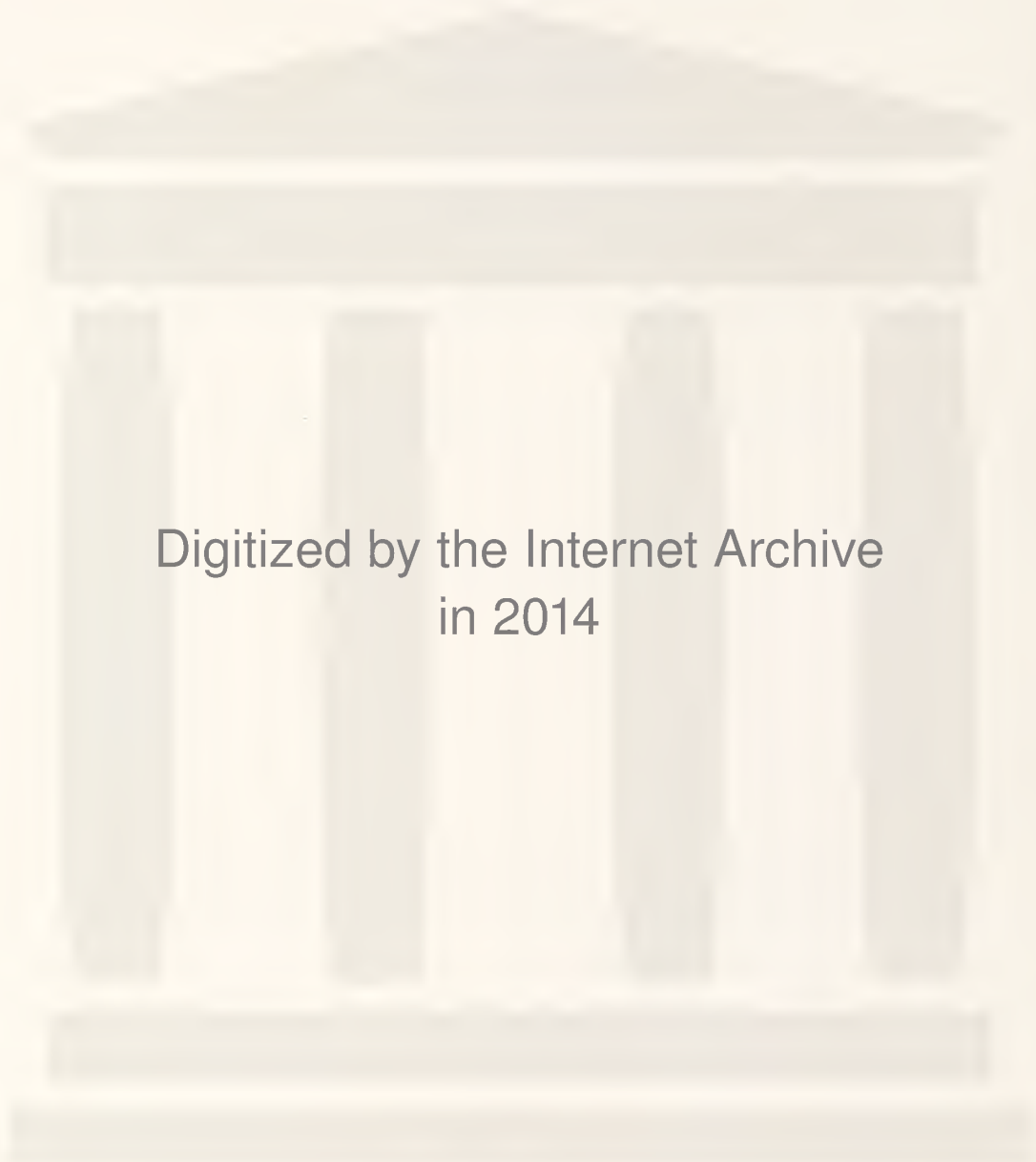
BRIEF HISTORY OF BUSH ARBOR CHURCH

These Memorials are submitted in loving memory of
Elder William Curry King, moderator of the
Upper Country Line Primitive Baptist Association
for thirty years, and pastor of
Bush Arbor, McCray, Prospect Hill and Greensboro churches.

By permission of Sister Bronna King, wife of the deceased.
Compiled and Edited by Donald E. Smith
As a permanent record and service for
the Primitive Baptists and friends.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ELDER WILLIAM CURRY KING
1897—1970

Moderator of the
Upper Country Line Primitive Baptist Association
for thirty years

Donald E. Smith
D58776

MEMORIAL BY
THE UPPER COUNTRY LINE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The recent death of Elder W. Curry King, an eminent gospel minister and Moderator of the Upper Country Line Primitive Baptist Association for 30 years, 1933, 1942-1970, brought exceeding sorrow to a host of brethren, churches and the generality of Primitive Baptists.

A native of Caswell County, N. C., he was born May 6, 1897; died October 17, 1970. He was the son of the late William J. and Alice Rascoe King. Surviving is his wife, Sister Bronna King. To this union were no children; however, we could only feel they had a large family of children in Zion.

He joined Bush Arbor Church the 2nd Saturday in May, 1917. He was baptized by Elder Ben F. McKinney. At age 20 he was given privilege to speak by his home church in their July meeting and was ordained to the work of the ministry the 5th Sunday in July, 1921. God blessed him with a gift as recorded in Prov. 17:18, "a gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth." This was true with him both in natural and spiritual endeavors.

God blessed him to preach and serve the Lord's people for over a half century. Baptizing many believers, he baptized the blind, deaf, afflicted and six members who later were ordained to the ministry in which he served as moderator in the presbytery, the names which are as follows: Elders Ernest Oakley, J. Harvey Smith, Wallis Smith, Kenneth Key, Donald Smith and Leonard Key. Elder King had served six churches as pastor: McCray 1924-1970; Greensboro, assistant pastor 1927-1932, pastor 1932-1970; Bush Arbor 1929-1970; Prospect Hill 1959-1970; Gooch Memorial and Country Line.

A punctual and faithful servant, he was not only in serving his churches but attending our union meetings and representing our association in visiting our correspondence with whom we correspond from the mountains to the seacoast. He was patient in tribulation, and his loyalty, faithfulness in distributing the necessities to the saints of God was unexcelled, rejoicing with them that rejoiced and weeping with them that mourned, condescending himself to men of low estate, blessing them that persecuted him and living peaceably with all men as much as possible, having a good report without as well as within. It is doubtful that any minister visited the sick more or conducted more funerals than he.

It seemed that his sweet experience was that as Ruth when she said, "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me." This we heard him preach so beautifully and frequently. Surely Elder King manifested this following after them, lodging with them, dying with them, being buried with them and I believe we could say a desire to be resurrected with them, which was a constant facet of doctrine which he was blessed to preach in the power and Spirit of God.

In all that has been written about Elder King, there was a kind, gentle, affectionate and loyal wife behind him. We have never seen two people more devoted to each other than they. Surely Sister King must feel a part of her has been removed. May the God of all grace reconcile, comfort and be a husband to her that shall never die. In the eternal God may you find refuge, grace sufficient and underneath His everlasting arms to bear you up.

The vocation of his life consisted of farmer, tobacco warehouseman and retired after 27 years of service as office manager and salesman for The Smith-Douglas Fertilizer Company.

His funeral was conducted at Bush Arbor Church, his home church, Oct. 19, 1970, by Elders Wallis Smith, D. V. Spangler, H. W. Wray, E. F. Oakley, Kenneth Key, Leonard Key and Donald Smith. Interment was in the church cemetery to await the second coming of Jesus.

Written by order of the Upper Country Line Primitive Baptist Association.

—Donald E. Smith, Clerk
(Published in the Minutes for 1971)

Elder W. Curry King (deceased October 17, 1970) . . . Bronna K. King (surviving)

Married May 4, 1921 by Elder J. W. Gilliam,

Clerk of the Upper Country Line Association (40 years)

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN THE MINISTRY

50

LOVE AND RESPECT BY BUSH ARBOR CHURCH IN APPRECIATION OF HER PASTOR, ELDER W. CURRY KING

Jeremiah 3:15, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding," saith the God of all grace. We feel the church at Bush Arbor has freely received this blessing, and the desire of our hearts is to humbly do in accordance with Romans 13:7, "Render tribute to whom tribute is due," not for a work to be seen, but we perceive a work that was wrought of our God.

We desire to give all honor, glory, and praise to His holy name this memorial year in the life of our pastor 1967, as we pay tribute to our brother in hope, Elder W. Curry King, whom the Lord has so graciously blessed to serve a half century in the ministry.

Elder King was born within the shadows of the church at Bush Arbor on May 6, 1897. His earthly father was called home while our brother was a lad of a boy, and the way was hard. Yet, if God be for you, who can be against you. For he was given in his youth to look to God in his holy habitation, a Father of the fatherless. At an early age he brought forth fruit, meat for repentance, and was received by this church on the second Saturday in May, 1917. He was baptized on Sunday morning by Elder B. F. McKinney.

The Lord called him out of the congregation, and he was given permission to speak in a public way at the July, 1917, meeting. We feel that he has lived by the Gospel he preached.

By the laying on of hands by the Presbytery, he was ordained to the full functions of Gospel minister on the fifth Sunday of July, 1921. The precious ones serving in this ordinance now rest from their labor. They were Elder J. W. Gilliam, moderator; Brother J. E. Simmons; Elder T. A. Stanfield, clerk; examined by Elder M. B. Martin; prayer by Elder J. W. Gilliam. Few of us heard this charge, though we feel that he was watched in all things and made full proof of his ministry.

Elder King accepted the care of Bush Arbor as her pastor in April, 1929. He has labored long and hard as watchman and overseer of this flock. His stability is through a God-given wisdom and knowledge. His humility is the strength of his salvation. And the fear of the Lord is his treasure by which peace at home has been his first concern.

We render tribute to our brother not in work alone, but we hope in power of the Holy Ghost through love, fellowship, and respect for his tireless effort to serve his first love, and by the grace of God, his walk has never brought reproach upon her. For fifty years he has humbly come in and out before a people, we hope, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, and this is more years than many of us have lived. We think of how one generation passeth away and another takes its place, and of the precious memories he must have of baptizing the forefathers of this generation.

Who knows, save the Lord of Glory, how many times he has gone into the liquid grave with the trembling ones, feeling as John must have felt as he baptized the Savior in the River of Jordan. Out of these precious ones, the Lord called five ministers: Elders Ernest Oakley, Harvey Smith, Kenneth Key, Wallis Smith, Donald Smith, and Brother Leonard Key, liberated to speak in a public way.

We saw Elder King rejoice with exceedingly great joy when these brethren proved their calling and ordained into the full work of the ministry. We also saw the strain of grief upon his face when one so precious as Elder J. Harvey Smith was called from our midst. These highly esteemed Elders looked to him as a father in the ministry.

We find much said by Peter to the undershepherd. and we feel it fitting in this tribute of respect. 1st Peter 5:1-4, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the suffering of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed, feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

As we think of the ensample and ready mind of our pastor, we are given to wonder how many times through him the poor have had the gospel preached to them, or how many times he has come in and out before the flock, badly in pain or with a bowed head and heavy heart, or how many times he has knelt by his bed and asked for guidance and wisdom

that he might have oversight of the tabernacle of God.

Who knows, save the Lord of Glory, how many sleepless nights he has spent when his burden was heavy, nor how many tears he has shed over the welfare of the church, nor how many funerals he has conducted, nor how many times he has left his bed in the wee hours of the night to go to the bedside of dying men and women that he might comfort them in their last hours; not for filthy lucre sake, but love which is the fruit of the Spirit.

Many of us have felt him God-sent as we wet our pillows with tears while he uttered prayers for mercy over our bed of affliction for which we are most grateful.

After the death of Elder T. A. Stanfield, Elder King was chosen moderator of the Upper Country Line Association, and has served each session since without opposition.

The brethren at Bush Arbor feel at liberty to say on behalf of our sister churches served by Elder King,—these being Greensboro, McCray, and Prospect Hill—along with this association, organized in fellowship in the love of God whose welfare is of much concern to Elder King, in regard to the past half century, well done thou good and faithful servant of the Lord. May his days yet to serve be many. Grace be unto him, and peace from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. We are thankful for his fellowship in the gospel and for his willingness to share his abundant blessings from the giver of every good and perfect gift.

We also render tribute to our precious sister in hope who we feel is an inspiration to the Primitive Baptists over this land as well as her home church at Bush Arbor. Her's is a God-fearing walk and humble spirit, and her love for the church worketh no ill.

We feel our brother has surely asked himself many times, could he have come thus far without the inspiring love of the wife of his youth. A faithful companion for more than 45 years as well as sister in hope, Sister Bronna King exemplifies Proverbs 14:4, "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband."

Our prayer for Brother and Sister King is for a peaceful moment at God's appointed time to call his spirit home. May they be given to say, in a meek and quiet spirit, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

(From Signs of the Times, August, 1967)

EXCERPTS FROM A SERMON

(Excerpts from a sermon preached by Elder W. C. King at Bush Arbor Church, N. C., on December 13, 1959.)

Recorded in the gospel according to St. Luke, 1st chapter, 37th verse, are these words: "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

We find in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. There was no man to help or to hinder: there was no man upon the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep and God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." God divided the light from the darkness, and called the light day, and the darkness He called night. The things that would be impossible with man are possible with God.

The Lord said unto Abram, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." God told him that He would make of him a great nation, and that his seed should be as the sand of the sea. Abram was one hundred years old and his wife Sarah was ninety years old, when the Lord appeared unto him saying, "Sarah thy wife shall have a son." Sarah laughed, realizing she was old and stricken in age. But, according to God's promise, Isaac was born. The things that are impossible with men are possible with God. If I could, I would like this morning to point out to you some of the things that seem impossible with men but are possible with God: Knowing that He has all power in heaven and in earth, does all things after the counsel of His own will, having seen the end from the beginning.

Men by wisdom cannot understand how that Daniel could be cast into a den of lions and not be destroyed. Yet God had sent his angels and shut the lions' mouths that no harm should be done to Daniel; He having all power even over the beasts of the forest, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. He could cause the raven to feed Elijah—to find him in his desolation and sadness, and feed him meat and bread twice a day. We know by nature the raven would prefer to feed upon his body, but God commanded the raven to feed Elijah. How impossible these things seem to man. God makes a way where there is no way.

When the Hebrew children refused to worship the false gods, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the furnace be heated seven times more than it was wont to be heated. He commanded the most mighty men of his army to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. The king arose early, and in haste said to his counsellors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? Lo, I see four men walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt. The form of the fourth is like unto the Son of God."

We cannot understand with the carnal mind how these things can be: without even the smell of smoke upon their garments. No condition or circumstance is such that our God doesn't have complete power to save from every destruction. Many of the trials and experiences of God's little ones here in this world seem a miracle, yet in God's holy providence all provisions are made for their security and protection.

The angel from heaven appeared unto Zachariah when he was in the temple of the Lord about the duties and customs of the priest's office. When Zachariah saw the angel, fear fell upon him, but the angel said unto him, "Fear not, Zachariah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John . . . For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall neither drink wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. . . . And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just: to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." How impossible this must have seemed to Zachariah, knowing that his wife Elizabeth was old, and barren. He asked the angel, "Whereby shall I know this?" The angel answering said, "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shall be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed." When Elizabeth's full time came that she should be delivered. she brought forth a son. When the cousins and neighbors heard how the Lord had showed great mercy upon her, they began to talk about a name for the child. Some, of course, wanted to name him after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; but he shall be called John." They reasoned that none of their kindred was called by that name; and they made signs to his father how he would have him called, and he asked for a writing table, and he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed, and he spake and praised God.

Do you not sometimes challenge God, dear believ-

er, by asking him to give you some greater evidence of his love and mercy to you, that you might have a greater assurance of his promises?

Sometimes in our meditations and prayers we ask God to grant us certain things. I remember so well in my early experience, when I asked God just to spare my life until a certain time, and if He would do that, I would be submissive to what I felt to be my duty. But I found that I was not able to keep my promise even to God when He had spared my life to see the time requested. My heart was as cold as ice. I was made to weep and cry unto Him for mercy, learning that I was not my own keeper: That without Him I could do nothing.

God sent an angel unto a city of Galilee to a virgin espoused to a man named Joseph. This virgin was Mary. The angel said, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him she was troubled and the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus . . . He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

"Then Joseph her husband being a just man and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream saying, "Joseph thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost and she shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." "Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him and took unto him, his wife. Knowing her not until she had brought forth her firstborn son and he called His name Jesus." How impossible this seems to men; how preposterous for human reasoning to believe that a virgin should conceive of the Holy Ghost and bring forth a son; even Mary pondered these things in her own heart. "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to Bethlehem to be taxed. While they were there the days were accomplished that she should be delivered, and she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The angels of God made the announcement of the birth of the blessed Savior of sinners, to those humble shepherds who were abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock by night; saying, "Fear not for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ Jesus the Lord." I feel this morning that when the Gospel is preached it is good tidings of great joy, coming from a far country; so far that mortal arms can't reach it, yet so near that it can be felt in every heart that God has touched by the finger of his love.

There was no room in the city of Philippi, although God showed Paul by vision to, "Come over to Macedonia to help us." As great as this Roman city might have been there was no place for the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We find Paul on the Sabbath going out of the city by the river bank, a place where prayer was wont to be made. The Lord opened the heart of Lydia, not only did she hear but she attended to the things she heard, and was baptized; and said to Paul, "If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and abide there."

I want to say to you beloved that there is a love, a power that binds the hearts of believers together that the world by wisdom can never know. They are hid from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes. Just as these shepherds were made willing to leave their flocks and every possession; they had to go to where their Savior was. No man will desire to go where their Lord and Master is until they have had his love in their heart. These wise men had the Star of Bethlehem to guide them. I believe that star is still shining. Every poor sin benighted soul has their eyes set on that star and the Lord Jesus Christ to lead and guide them to that City of habitation.

We don't know how many days it took them to travel the distance they covered. I don't know how many valleys they had to cross and how many mountains they had to climb. I don't think they turned either to the right or left. They had their eyes set on the Star of Bethlehem. It is Jesus Christ your Lord and Master that you have your eyes focused on. Every poor helpless sinner has learned there is no where else to go. You can witness with Paul when he said it was better for him to depart. I am so glad he told us why it was better,—to be with my Lord Jesus Christ.

So these wise men were so divinely sent; nothing could prevent them from reaching where this child Jesus lay. They found Him in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. They presented to Him these treasures, gold, myrrh and frankincense. Herod had told them, "When you have found Him, come and tell me that I might go and worship Him." Herod no doubt thought that he would dethrone Him as king. Oh, how wonderful and past finding out is the great work of our God. He had the wise men to go back another way. You or I can never go over this road but once. How much you would like to have some of your experiences of God's precious presence with you over again! The things that are impossible with men are possible with God. It was never the desire of Jesus to be honored and praised by men for what He did. When men sought to praise Him and to make Him king, we find Him absenting Himself from the crowd, going to the mountains in prayer. The poor, needy souls He never turned away empty. The poor leper that came to Him (who knew he was doomed to be cast into isolation, and there to spend his last and expiring days) had faith to believe that Jesus could heal him. We hear him saying to Jesus, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Jesus had the power to cleanse the leprous. This morning do you not believe that He still has the same power to cleanse you from all sin; that your soul can be set free, that the Christ Child would be destroyed. How impossible that decree was, just as God had warned the wise men that they shouldn't return back to Herod, but go back another way. The Lord appeared to Joseph and told him to take the child and its mother and flee into Egypt. The Scripture tells us that they departed in the night. Oh, how much of our traveling seems so dark as in the night! The Lord appeared again to Joseph when Herod was dead saying, "Arise, take the young child and His mother and go into the land of Israel." The unseen power of the everlasting God was controlling every move to take care of this blessed child.

Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem at the Feast of the Passover every year, and they carried this child Jesus with them, who was twelve years old at that time. When they had fulfilled the days and started on their journey back, Jesus tarried in Jerusalem. After a day's travel they sought Him among some kinsfolk and acquaintances, but they found Him not. So they went back to Jerusalem seeking Him some three days. Later they found Him in the temple sitting in the midst of Doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions. When they saw Him they were amazed. His mother said unto him, "Why hast thou dealt with us? Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And He said unto them, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" How strong and amazing it must have been to see this lad of a boy, the son of a poor carpenter, there in the Temple among the most learned and intelligent people of the land, asking and answering questions. Yes, He must be about his Father's business. God's business is a business so important that He can call men from the various occupations of life and cause them to leave all and follow Him.

The Scriptures have but little to say about Jesus from about the age of twelve until about thirty. "He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them, and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." John says, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." We know the half will never be told. No power that could be formed could take His life until the appointed time of the Father. Every demand of the law must be fulfilled. The church of the living God must be cleansed from all sin by the one offering of our Heavenly Father, His only Son Jesus Christ.

How impossible it seemed to His own disciples when He began to tell them that He must go away, must leave them that the Holy Comforter may come. When He had eaten the last supper with them, He tells them that I am now betrayed and shall be crucified and put to death, and I shall rise again on the third day.

I want to say to you that every single soul that has ever come into this blessed fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ is brought there by His own glorious power and love. It is an impossibility that men in nature, or natural minds, can know this glorious truth as it is in Christ our Lord. No greater miracle can be performed than to see a poor sinful lost man or woman that seemingly have had no love for heaven or immortal glory, be touched by the finger of God's love and turned about by his Holy Spirit, made to come down in sackcloth and in ashes to beg God for mercy on their poor, sinful souls. What is more impossible than that to human reasoning? Confessing that by the grace of God I am what I am, having no confidence in the flesh. No man can resist successfully this blessed power. It subdues and brings you under subjection and makes you willing in the day of His power; ascribing all power to His Holy name. You and I can't understand the great mystery

of godliness unless they are revealed to us.

How impossible it must have been for those who would comfort Mary and Martha, to believe that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the grave after he had been dead four days. Mary and Martha didn't believe that he would be raised until the resurrection of the last day. Jesus said unto them, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth on me though he were dead, yet shall he live." Jesus asked, "Where have ye laid him? They said, come and see." Jesus had only to say, "Lazarus, come forth," and he that was dead came forth.

Oh! what grief and sorrow it brings to us when our loved ones are taken from us. It is impossible for us to call them back. Their spirits return to God, while their bodies rest in the grave to return to dust from whence they come, awaiting our blessed Savior to come again and call them to come forth. I can't tell you, my beloved, this morning how these things shall be, but I can assure you they will come at His command, without blemish, spot, or wrinkle or any such thing, to be made like unto His own glorious body.

His promise to His dear ones cannot fail. I believe with all my soul that He will come again. He told His disciples before He was crucified: "I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am you may be there also."

If I never address you any more on this side of eternity, I want to tell you that Jesus reigns. This child Jesus which was born in Judea in the City of Bethlehem is still alive. He is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for His saints upon the earth, and that He will at His own time call the jewels of His mercy unto himself. There will not be one of the objects of His mercy that shall not hear His blessed voice to arise and come forth to be like unto His own glorious body.

As we approach this Christmas season we would if we could share our natural resources with those less fortunate, but we know there is a limit. We know we can do but so much, yet I can point you to the one whose eternal power and love is without limitation or bounds. He is able to reach the most remote parts of the earth and give a gift that far surpasses all the gifts that man can give. So I say to you this morning that the greatest gift that you have ever received or that you will receive as these days come, is the gift of His Holy Spirit in your heart as your Savior; who is the anchor to your soul both sure and steadfast. Anchored to that within the veil that shall never be severed. This gift will never be obsolete or out of date. I am persuaded that as the years go by and we grow older, these precious promises become brighter. We know our shoulders become stooped, our heads silver for the tomb, the time for our departure is near. His promise becomes more precious, that He will not leave nor forsake us, but will be with us always even to the end.

I want to assure you that all things are possible with God. Not one single blessing that God sees you stand in need of will be withheld from you; though He has left you here in a land of trials and afflictions, the eternal God is at the helm. He will do all His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth, and His church shall be brought out from the world by His mighty hand and at last be presented to the Father a glorious Church perfect as Himself.

John saw the Holy City New Jerusalem coming down from God out of Heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them and shall be their God. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away."

What a glorious hope we have. What a blessed promise that some day we are going to move into this new house made not by hands, from this old house of clay. One day we are going to leave the cares and burdens of this sinful world to go home to God to appear in His likeness, to see Him as He is, to be like Him; where we can ascribe all honor and praise to His Holy Name forever. Momentarily here in this life we feel that our souls are lifted to the mountain top, soon to find we are again in the valley of despair. We are told that in this glory land there will be no shedding of tears. No sorrow can come, no death to separate us from loved ones. What a glorious Savior we have. One who has power to call us from the ways of this world, into the blessed fellowship of our God and with His saints upon the earth kept by the power of God ready to be revealed at the last day.

In conclusion let me say, May God bless you, keep and guide you in wisdom's ways, and at last deliver you securely and safely into the fold of God, where sickness, sorrow, and death and separation shall be no more.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

(—Signs of the Times, July, 1960)

INTERVIEW WITH ELDER W. C. KING
WITH DENNIS SANDERS OF TIMES-DAILY NEWS

ANDERSON—"I count not my life dear unto myself," is attributed to the Biblical Paul.

It is the personal credo of a man who would dedicate his life to others, a rarity, almost, in these times.

And it is the principle by which Elder W. Curry King has lived for 70 years, 50 of which he has spent as a Primitive Baptist minister.

Mr. King, a native of the Anderson School Community near the Caswell County line, was accepted into the Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church in 1917. It was the second Saturday in May. He was baptized the following Sunday.

On the anniversary of that day 50 years later, the present Bush Arbor Church congregation honored their minister and friend with an evening supper and—as he has done one Sunday each month for half a century—his own sermon.

"It was very enjoyable," Mr. King smiled as he told of the evening, "but, you know, it made me feel old."

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, Mr. King has had little time in his 70 years to feel old. His father died when he was 14, leaving Mr. King and four brothers to work for a living. Of the five, Mr. King is the only one living.

And he has administered the pastoral needs of four churches in the area—giving each one Sunday each month and regretting that he could not do more—including Bush Arbor Church, since 1929; the Tate Street Primitive Baptist Church in Greensboro, since 1927; the McCray Church since 1924, and the Prospect Hill Church, since 1959.

"I think I began the ministry when an impression of mind greater than I reached me," Mr. King said. "It is very gratifying to visit and help people, and I've always had a love for the cause."

But the work has not been easy. He is responsible for four churches, the largest of which—the Bush Arbor Church—has 118 members, and the hours have been long.

"I guess I've left my bed many a night to visit the sick in their homes and at hospitals, but it has always been gratifying work for me," he added.

Mr. King has been pastor at Bush Arbor Church longer than any other minister, and all of the ministers who have served have been from the surrounding community. The church records go back as far as 1806, but the church was constituted some time before that, and had a large membership even at that early date.

"In 151 years, there have been only seven pastors at Bush Arbor Church," Mr. King said. There was pride, and rightly so, in his voice as he spoke.

The current Bush Arbor building, the third at the site, was constructed in 1949.

"There have been few stops in the work," he said, "but it's been a full life. Besides, I'd rather wear out than rust out."

Mr. King has worked longer than many men, but he has no idea of stopping now: "Some people just give up too easily. In fact, I don't see why a man should be retired at age 65 if he is willing and able to work," Mr. King said.

One of the more gratifying aspects of his years of ministry, he said, was performing weddings for members of his congregation and then, in later years, doing the same for their children.

"It gives you a good feeling," Mr. King said.

He and his wife, the former Bronna King, also are nearing a milestone—their Golden Wedding Anniversary is but four years away.

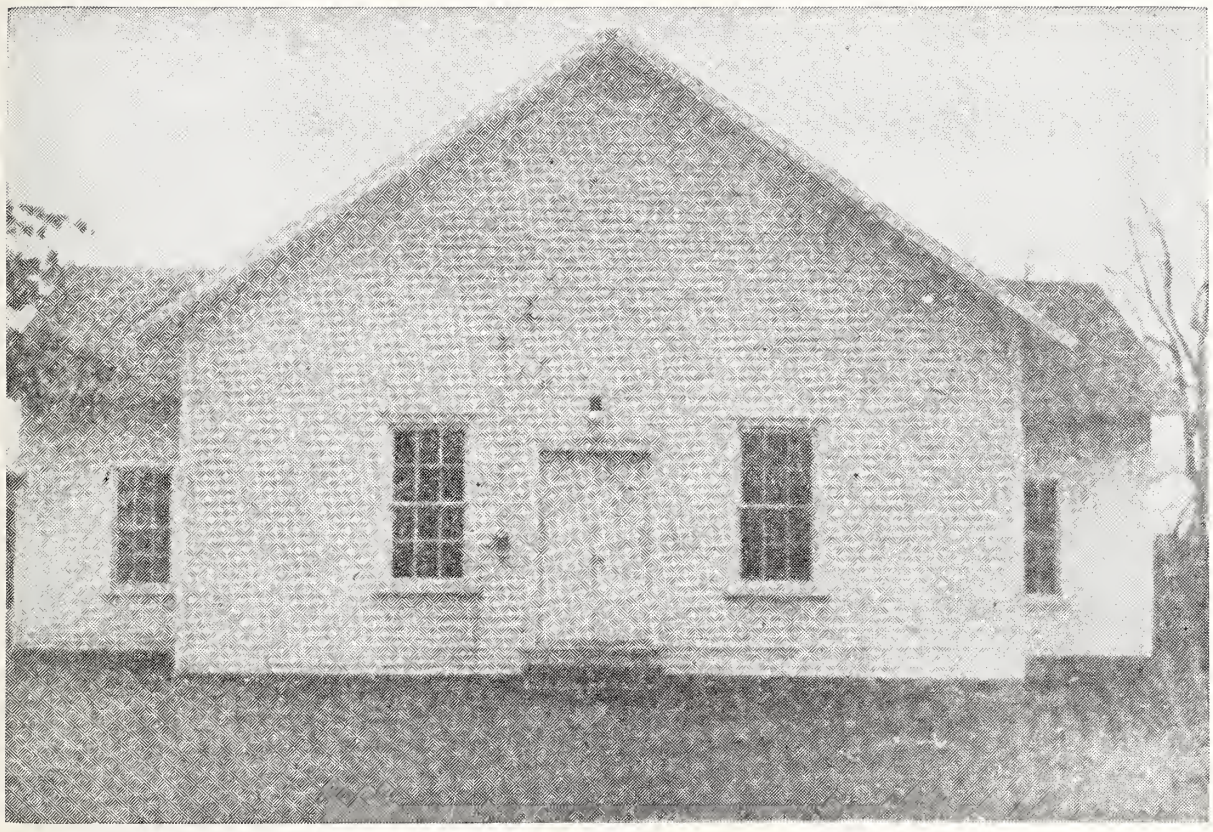
But his 50 years of unselfish service to four sister churches, in the Upper Country Line Primitive Baptist Association, which he has moderated since 1942 is a milestone that comes too rarely these days.

"I feel humble and grateful that I have been able to serve and to have friends in and out of the church as I have," Mr. King said. "Their wonderful tribute renewed the call, you might say."

What, then, has been the most gratifying element of the half century of service?

"The service I could render others and to glorify God has meant the most to me. It is always, and has always, been more blessed to give than to receive," he said.

And, somehow, there was no doubt that he meant it.



OLD CHURCH BUILDING

Bush Arbor Church was an organized body with a large membership as shown by minutes of her February 11, 1806 conference with Elder Barzilla Graves as pastor, who served until March, 1810.

Other pastors as follows: Elders Richard Martin, March 1810-January 1834; John Stadler, February 1834-1860; F. L. Oakley, July 1863-September 1890; Y. I. Chandler, October 1890-1916; B. F. McKinney, June 1916-July 1928; W. C. King, April 1929-October 17, 1970; Wallis A. Smith, November 7, 1970—.

THE RULES OF DECORUM MADE THIS THE 13TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1808

The following rules to be observed strictly in our church meetings.

Rule 1. Meeting shall open and close with prayer.

Rule 2. The minister shall be the moderator unless the church shall think otherwise.

Rule 3. Only one person shall speak at a time who shall rise from his seat and address the moderator.

Rule 4. He shall strictly adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before so as to make remarks on slips, failings or imperfections but shall fairly state the matter and case as near as he can so as to convey light or idea.

Rule 5. The person speaking shall not be interrupted by any person except the moderator until he has delivered his speech.

Rule 6. No member shall withdraw without previously obtaining leave under the penalty of reproof and public rebuke.

Rule 7. No member shall speak more than twice to the same question without leave of the Church or more than once until every member wanting to speak shall have spoken.

Rule 8. No member of the Church shall have liberty of laughing during the setting of the same or of whispering in the time of public speech.

Rule 9. The moderator shall not interrupt any person in their speech until they have given their light or idea except they break the rules of this decorum.

Rule 10. The moderator shall be entitled to the privilege of speech as another member, so the chair be filled.

Rule 11. Meeting shall open at eleven o'clock and the male members that are present when fellowship is inquired for shall make their excuse and be dealt with at the discretion of the Church.

Rule 12. It shall be the duty of the clerk to make record of each day's procedure and read it for the approbation of the Church unless the Church shall think proper to postpone it.

Rule 13. It shall be the duty of the clerk to have the above rules at each Church meeting for perusal.

The Members of the Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church at their regular conference meeting held on August 7, 1965 adopted the following Amendments to the rules of decorum of the Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church:

AMENDMENT I

It is hereby ordered that the funds heretofore placed in the cemetery fund and all funds hereinafter added to said funds shall be held intact by the Church, and that a perpetual trust fund be set up by the Church for the care and maintenance of the Church cemetery and grounds known as the Bush Arbor Memorial Trust Fund. None of the principal of said trust fund to be used for any purpose. However, the interest from said trust fund to be used for the care and maintenance of the Church cemetery and grounds under and upon the direction of the Church members.

AMENDMENT II

There shall always be at least three (3) Trustees for said Church. Any vacancies which may occur from time to time to be filled by the election of another Trustee at a regular conference meeting by the membership.

AMENDMENT III

Should Bush Arbor Church cease to be an organized body of members the above mentioned Bush Arbor Memorial Trust Fund shall be in the hands of the Clerk of Superior Court of Caswell County, North Carolina, and trustees shall be appointed by him for administering this program as stated above, and that a copy of this Amendment be recorded by the Register of Deeds, Caswell County, North Carolina for future references.

(Signed) W. C. KING, Moderator
(Signed) EARL S. RUDD, Clerk

BUSH ARBOR PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Elder W. Curry King, Pastor of Bush Arbor Church (41 years), neither received a salary nor tutored by any worldly institution to preach the gospel.

First sermon preached January 30, 1949 by Elder W. Curry King in the present building. On the corner stone of this building is recorded: The first service was held in present building on January 30, 1949 by Elder W. Curry King, Psa. 127:1—"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

BUSH ARBOR CHURCH

As I prepare to write this obituary, it is with much sadness. I feel to be at such a loss as what and how to say the things I would desire to say about one so great and highly esteemed among the household of faith. Elder King was born in Caswell County, North Carolina on May 6, 1897, to his parents, the late William J. and Alice Rascoe King. Departed this life October 17, 1970, making his stay 73 years, 5 months and 11 days. Leaving to mourn his departure is his wife, Sister Bronna King, together with a host of near and dear relatives and all those who knew and loved him.

His father passed away when he was only 14 years of age. I have heard him tell how saddened and what a loss he had sustained and how he begged God for mercy and counsel that he might carry on, yet knowing and feeling that God knew best. As he grew into adulthood he labored hard to provide for those whom he loved. He told of a desire he had to become a lawyer but his lot was cast with the poor and afflicted of Zion and we see that God had a greater work for him to perform. Having become acquainted with Miss Bronna Mae King, we see that God brought them together in such a way that she was to become his faithful and loyal companion and they were united in marriage on May 4, 1921, by the late Elder John W. Gilliam. Unto this union there were no children, yet there were many who came to him for counsel and advice as that of a faither.

Elder King professed a hope in Jesus Christ and offered to the church the 2nd Saturday in May, 1917, and was received and baptized into the fellowship of Bush Arbor Church by the late Elder Ben F. McKinney and remained a faithful and loyal member until death. Having been burdened with more than a desire for membership of the church, he asked liberty to speak at his home church in their July meeting, 1917, at the age of 20 and was granted that privilege. The church seeing and recognizing the burden and the gift which God had placed upon him, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry, the 5th Sunday in July, 1921. Going forth from that time forward preaching the glorious gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It seemed that God looked upon him with a favoring eye to bless him in all his endeavors both natural and spiritual. He soon became a great and useful minister being blessed to stir the minds of God's people and to feed the sheep; many were strengthened under the sound of his preaching. He was called to serve churches in our association and among those in which he served were McCray, 1924-1970; Greensboro, assistant pastor 1927-1932, pastor 1932-1970; Bush Arbor 1929-1970; Prospect Hill 1959-1970; Gooch Memorial and Country Line. Elder King being blessed with such integrity, judgment, counsel and having such an oversight over the flock wherewith he was called, having the interest and welfare of his brethren at heart, he was chosen to serve as moderator of the Upper Country Line Association in the year 1933. In the year 1942, he was re-elected and served this office with such meekness, humbleness and love, having a desire for and maintaining peace, and was annually elected moderator without opposition until death.

His early labors saw him as a farmer, tobacco warehouseman and later was employed by Smith-Douglass Company and retired, having worked for them twenty-seven years. Yet being so efficient and gaining the confidence of his superiors that not one time was he denied the many calls he had for funerals and visits to the bedside of the sick which he administered unto so untiringly with love and patience.

However, there were lean years in his early ministry, and one experience he related I shall never forget. He had a meeting coming up and it was some distance away. He did not have money to buy gas to go and fill this appointment but he was greatly concerned as to how he would get there. Early on the morning of this appointment there came a man to his home and asked if he had any seed corn. The reply was, "yes," and the corn was purchased. Elder King said, "God has provided my way." How many times have we heard him say, "God will provide for His little ones."

He was blessed to declare the truth for more than fifty-three years among the Household of Faith, gaining fellowship and love as he went forth, truly being loved and esteemed by those who knew him. It seemed he was one of the favorites among our people and called upon far and near to pay last respect to those whom God had called from this life, having served in as many as three funerals in one day.

During his ministry there were no doubt many highlights, I am sure. One of these must have been when he baptized his dear companion into the fellowship of the church in November, 1941. Other baptizings we would like to mention were that of the blind, deaf, and some even in chairs. He also baptized six men and later served as moderator in the Presbytery and saw them ordained into the full work of the ministry. They are in this order: Elders Ernest F. Oakley, J. Harvey Smith (deceased), Wallis A. Smith, Kenneth Key, Donald E. Smith and Leonard

Key, so we feel the fruits of his ministry shall remain with us for years to come. He was blessed to baptize many believers into the fellowship of the church during his ministry.

As we saw his ministry coming to a climax and age overtaking him, he was approached many times concerning his health and his physical strength and his reply was, "I prefer to wear out rather than rust out," and we saw him pressing on as a faithful soldier of the cross, neither murmuring nor complaining, but trusting in God. Elder King was a man that believed in peace and indeed a peacemaker. He was blessed to carry the banner of peace and to walk softly and humbly among our people. We find in Matthew Chapter 5, Verse 9, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

The last text Elder King read and preached from, was on the second Saturday night in October, 1970, from the 110th Psalm, Verse 3, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." On the second Sunday in October, 1970, which was to be our communion service, there were several ministers present and some of whom he had baptized. Elder King, as always being considerate of his ministering brethren, declined to speak. After preaching service all ministers present were seated around the communion table as we prepared to take of the bread and wine which is symbolic of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Elder King arose and began to speak, and in doing so, remarked that there were some present at this service that may not be present to enjoy the love and fellowship of a service of this kind again. To reassure us of the promises of God and of that sweet hope which God has placed in the hearts of His people. It was as thought he was trying to tell us his time was short. Little did we know that it was the purpose of God that it would be the last supper our beloved pastor would have on earth with us. I cherish the sweet memories that God being so complete would bless him to finish his course in this manner.

I feel the example he set before us shall long be remembered and his voice shall echo in the hearts of those who loved him for years to come. As we look at the churches in which he served, we can see evidence of his leadership. He contributed heavily in a financial way so that the buildings would be more comfortable for those who would come to worship.

His funeral was conducted at Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church, Caswell County, North Carolina on October 19, 1970, by the writer, assisted by Elders D. V. Spangler, H. W. Wray, E. F. Oakley, Kenneth Key, Leonard Key and Donald Smith. The church did not accommodate the enormous crowd that gathered to pay respect. There were many beautiful floral wreaths, also being a token of respect. I do not feel that this was the last token of respect, for each time we think of the life which God blessed him to live in our midst, it will be a token of respect. If we know our hearts, we humbly thank God for having had the privilege to walk in sweet fellowship with one so meek and humble. I feel he could have adopted the language of the Apostle Paul, 2nd Timothy, Chapter 4, verse 6-8, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

He was laid to rest in the church cemetery to await the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May God in His rich mercy bless all those that mourn and may the vacancy which we have in our heart be filled with the love of God.

BE IT RESOLVED, a copy be sent to Sister Bronna King, one sent to the Signs of the Times and one kept for church records.

Written by request of Bush Arbor Primitive Baptist Church.

—Elder Wallis A. Smith

Read and approved in their conference meeting on February 13, 1971.

Elder Wallis A. Smith, Moderator
Earl S. Rudd, Clerk
(From Signs of the Times, April, 1971)

In Memory of Elder King

Yanceyville, N. C.
December, 1970

Much has been written about our dear pastor, Elder W. C. King, since his passing a few weeks ago. Many fitting and appropriate remarks have been made; all, I feel, in appreciation and thankfulness to an all wise God who saw fit to call him home.

I would like, if I may be blessed to do so, to pen a picture of a dream I had of Elder King not more than a couple or three weeks before his death. At the time I thought of it as just a foolish dream, and even made some statement at the breakfast table

the following morning. But since he has gone from our midst, this dream has, at least partially, unfolded for me and become precious.

In this dream there was a fairly large rectangular shaped building sitting on a small hill, the building running lengthwise up and down the hill. I was on one side of the building in a shaded spot seemingly trying to read. On the opposite side and a little farther up the hill I saw a white goat and a black animal. The features of the black animal were not clear but it was heavier than the goat, though not much, if any, taller. These animals were standing upon the base of a statue. The statue was not clear but was about as tall as an average size man. The goat was standing on one side of the statue and the black animal on the other. These were live animals. I could see them move their heads a little, also their feet occasionally but they never left the base of the statue. At the same time I saw Elder King and a brother of the Church walking, with their backs to me and to the animals, going toward a small grove of trees on a flat area below us, though close by. They were the only people I saw and though I did not call to them, I thought they should come back and do something about these animals. They never looked back. I was a little afraid and felt so helpless knowing I could no nothing myself.

There was a road that led to the right of this grove of trees and on out of sight behind it. In my dream I thought, "Well, they are just going to go around this grove and turn around," as might have been necessary in driving an automobile—yet they were walking. I watched them as they went and waited for them to appear on the opposite side of the grove but they never did. Meanwhile a lady appeared, vaguely, in the picture with me, but it was not at all clear to me who she was. Nevertheless, I complained to her because Elder King and this brother did not come back and do something about these animals. I did not receive an answer from the lady —and all was gone as dreams go.

The picture is yet unfinished. I want to fill in. I wish I could picture the two men for you as I saw them, also the pretty little dirt road. The men were looking toward each other as they walked but I was in the direction that I could see more of Elder King's face than the face of the brother. He seemed to be talking and in a jovial, happy, even elated mood. The brother, smiling a little, seemed very attentive and interested in what Elder King was saying.

Once when I told a sister about my dream she immediately remarked that the black animal represented the sins of the world that Elder King was leaving behind. This I believe. The goat (the world) never caused him to swerve. Nor had he time for idols and false images, not even to the last. Neither could any of these things follow him; they kept their place in the background. Of the animals, I like to think of there being no sheep in the picture, to me representing his work of tending the flock was over.

Another thought has just come to mind. Could the lady I saw vaguely represent his church he was also leaving behind? Or was she just an outlet for me to pour out my complaints upon? Or was it you, dear Sister King, knowing you to be the constant and loyal companion you were—also knowing you were standing by when your husband entered into this path of no return. Though it was not a path I saw. It was a narrow road, a pretty little dirt road. I was under the shadow of some trees, but the road looked clear and bright as if the sun was shining upon it.

It did not take this dream for me to feel our dear pastor rests in a better world. Nevertheless, I thank God for this picture of him, walking in brotherly love, going home; leaving all ugliness behind.

—Mary Gordon Blaylock
(From Signs of the Times, April, 1971)

McCRAY CHURCH

There are so many kinds of sorrow, but we at McCray Church have such sweet sorrow. God has been so good to us, and how sweet the years have been. Because we have been so wonderfully blessed in having the opportunity of a faithful pastor for forty-six years, Elder W. Curry King. We have so many gracious memories and beautiful thoughts to come in our minds when thinking of him, that death does not part.

We feel we have been greatly enriched by his long and useful life among whom he so unselfishly labored. We shall miss his wise counsel and guidance. Yet it is with thanksgiving and praise for his kindness toward us and words of comfort we received from his presence. His willingness to sacrifice himself for his churches won for him much love and respect from it's members and friends, and he was known as a faithful pastor in every church he served. Always reluctant in leaving to visit other churches, however he did occasionally, but prompt in securing someone to fill in for him.

During his many years of pastoral care there were only seven occasions that he was absent from the pulpit other than in his later years, being away

one Sunday a year while on a vacation that he and his dear companion so much deserved. Elder and Sister King were gifted to hospitality and their home was always opened with the warmest of welcome to their many friends far and near.

Planning in and around his home was a place many happy hours were spent. He liked seeing things grow and gardening was an enjoyable hobby. He and Sister King found so much joy in sharing their blessings with others that those visiting in their home always left with something in a bag from their garden or some fruit from his much prized orchard. The last task he performed was bringing into the kitchen some vegetable from his garden only a few minutes before his passing. As he often said, "I would like to go with my boots on," and his wishes were granted.

Elder King was an humble man and tender-hearted, grievous when those around him were grieved and rejoiced when they rejoiced. It is those that inspire us that we like being around, and he was endowed with wisdom and forbearance that many would seek his counsel, even in the late hours of night. It was always a labor of love, making you feel glad that you came. So it is the many times we have been given renewed courage by having such a close walk with him, as our pastor. May each of us be given to consider the great example of love, humility and forbearance that he has left behind.

Somewhere during his discourses, he would often speak on the resurrection with a strong belief in the hope that he would one day be raised like his Savior, be like Him and be satisfied.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints feeling he is among the children of the Heavenly King. Traveling home to God, in the way the fathers trod, this was among his favorite hymns that was of great inspiration to him. The members and friends of our church loved him dearly and feel we have lost a wonderful servant of God; but ever trusting in a power that can raise up others to preach as he did. He will continue to live in the minds and hearts of our members. As he often said to comfort others, he has fought a good fight and is now reaping the rich reward that was laid up for him. And may we say together, our God is too good to be unkind and whose mercy never faileth. May we also join others who loved him, find comfort in the things he loved and cherished: salvation by grace and the sovereignty of an all wise and gracious God.

So should we feel sad that he is missing the struggles and sorrows of this life or are we comforted in the thought that he is peacefully sleeping, awaiting the greater joys of the eternal beyond.

We humbly and gratefully submit this final tribute in sacred memory of our beloved pastor from the faithful few of McCray Church.

Elder Wallis Smith, Pastor
Ruth Jeffreys, Clerk
(Signs of the Times, August, 1971)

GREENSBORO CHURCH

Elder King was seventy-three years old when he passed away, departing this life October 17, 1970. "His eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." We still weep and mourn his passing.

He began visiting with Greensboro Church in June, 1921, with her pastor, Elder O. J. Denny. He was called as assistant pastor in 1927. He served with Elder Denny, in this capacity, filling appointments much of the time by himself until 1932, when the mantle was laid more heavily upon his shoulder. Elder Denny, aging and becoming less able to serve, gave up the church and Elder King was called as her pastor.

As a true servant of God he continued to serve Greensboro Church. We feel his ministry here was a fruitful one. During these years he was blessed to feed the flock, and as an example before them he walked in a beautiful manner, meek as a lamb yet boldly declaring the whole counsel of God. Many members came home to the church under his ministry here as well as two ministers have been ordained: Elder Kenneth R. Key, and Elder Leonard Key. He was blessed always, it seemed, to be able to say the right thing at the right time. His words of comfort were soothing and he was never too busy or occupied that he was not ready to go when called. He loved the people and had a desire to share with them in their sorrows as well as rejoicing with them.

The church has maintained a stable membership through the years and others would come from far and near to hear him preach. He loved the doctrine of salvation by grace. He would often say, "I count my life not dear to myself," but was willing to spend and be spent in defense of this doctrine. He not only had a good report within the church but also without. He was able to live and get along with all men. He was loved not only at home but abroad. He was always welcomed and well received in other asso-

ciations and churches from the east to the west and from the mountains to the sea.

As we speak of the ministry of Elder King, we want to acknowledge also the faithfulness of his loving wife, Bronna. Never two people walked closer than they. She answered many calls with him to sick beds and where death had come. Without a word spoken, just their presence when they came together seemed to bring comfort to us. We share with her in her loss and pray God's continued blessings to abide with her.

Now may the same abiding Grace make us submissive that we may press onward, and that it might be said of us when we too depart this life, that our eye was not dim and that our vision was cast toward that eternal city whose builder and maker is God.

Submitted by Elder Kenneth R. Key, as requested by the church in our last conference meeting.

—Brother Wayne Edwards, Clerk
(Signs of the Times, July, 1971)

PROSPECT HILL CHURCH

It is indeed with a sad heart that I attempt to record a tribute of respect to our pastor Elder W. Curry King. He passed away October 17, 1970, at seventy-three years of age. Elder King was ordained a Primitive Baptist minister in 1921, serving the churches in this area for almost fifty years. He served as part-time pastor beginning in 1957 until February 22, 1959, when he accepted full-time pastor of Prospect Hill Church.

We, the members and friends, felt blessed and highly favored of God to have Elder King as pastor. His gentle manner and humble character endeared him to all who knew him as minister or friend. He came preaching the things most surely believed among us, backed by a "Thus saith the Lord." Many comforting words of truth were spoken of the sovereignty of God and the finished work of our Savior. Surely the Lord was his Shepherd. His prayers, faith, hope and dependence on God was so unique, no one questioned his sincerity. He emphasized the inability of man to do good and was confident that the Lord ordered all his good thoughts.

Elder King's last sermon at Prospect Hill Church the fourth Sunday in September was very impressive. "And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more." (Acts 20:22-25)

These were Paul's writings, but we feel this scripture described Elder King's feelings on this occasion. He seemed to see the setting sun, the end of his life here. Seeing on every hand the evidence of God's goodness in the land of the living down through the years, he could, by faith, face anything that may befall him, knowing that God held the future and each event of life or death would be but the unfolding of God's purpose concerning him. Elder King spoke often of that world of perfect bliss and a great desire to see the King in His beauty.

We will long remember this able and gifted pastor as we travel this journey of life. We pray that God will reconcile us to His will in this and all other matters, and bless us to dwell together in peace and love for one another. This was the principal theme of Elder King's preaching and careful consideration of everyone. We thank God for the pleasant association and fellowship that we have enjoyed with Elder King.

May God bless and reconcile his dear wife who has shared his joys and sorrows these many years.

Submitted in love, by request,

—Etheleen B. Watson
Elder Donald Smith, Moderator
Hallie Griswold, Clerk

Memorials In Poetry

A MAN OF GOD

A man of God from young in life,
A comfort through the storms of strife,
One who fed the flock in need,
Speaking what his God decreed.

Pastor, friend, and neighbor too,
Seeking always God's will to do
With words of calmness and of love:
The peace that comes from up above.

He humbly walked in bonds of grace,
Willing always the task to face,
Trusting in God to see him through;
And seeking His hand in all he'd do.

He preached of boundless love to man
And how God had a purposed plan:
He trusted in this God to save
His people from cradle to the grave.

Now his earthly race is run;
He will be missed for years to come.
He meant so much to people of God,
As the path of servant he humbly trod.

He is sleeping now in silent peace,
Where Satan's temptations must cease,
And awaits the day when he can rise
To meet the Host of Heaven in the skies.

He will see his Savior of whom he spoke,
And know the fruits of wearing the yoke:
He will share Christ's glory where angels sing;
This was the man Elder Curry King.

—C. B. Davis, Jr.

Roxboro, N. C.

(Signs of the Times, March, 1971)

OUR PASTOR AT BUSH ARBOR

This Saturday before the second Sunday in April
Nineteen Hundred Sixty-nine
The Church has called Elder W. C. King her pastor
the fortieth time.
Our beloved pastor will be seventy-two on the sixth
of May,
The gracious Lord has blessed him in such a
wonderful way.
Some are called evangelists and some to teach,
A pastor's calling is more than just the Gospel to
preach;
He takes care of the Church of God the bride of the
Lamb
Who is the only begotten son of the great I am.
To the Heavenly Father all honor and praise we
give to Thee,
We feel Thy blessings upon this church are plain
to see.
Her pastors have come from within her very own,
The Lord has so graciously made their calling known.
For the fortieth time Elder King the church has
called;
Through a God-given faith and love it is agreed by all
Each time he has humbly accepted her care.
Through the love that shows in his face we see a
tear,
We love and esteem him as an overseer indeed;
In humility he looks to the Lord to supply his every
need.
We at Bush Arbor have a sincere desire in our breast
That Brother King will accept her care until he is
laid to rest;
He is given wisdom with an oversight;
He watches for the wolves both day and night.
The Lord promised, "I will give you pastors accord-
ing to Mine heart."
We desire to give our flowers to the faithful before
they depart.

—Clifton Robertson

Rt. 1, Reidsville, N. C.

WE MOURN IN THE WILDERNESS

When I read of the voice of one crying in the wilderness, I think of my former pastor and his journey through this wilderness land.

I believe he was blessed to preach the gospel, declaring the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

I feel I shall long remember that beautiful October morning, 1970. The trees had just begun to shed their leaves.

For some reason I felt to be dwelling at ease; when suddenly I was overshadowed, and my heart was deeply grieved.

The beauty of the morning faded, and the Lord of Heaven only knows how many tears were shed,

When we poor mortals received the information our precious pastor, Elder Curry King, was dead

We knew his health was failing, though it was hard to accept that his life's evening sun was going down.

In his last days it was plain to see that faith, hope, and charity did abundantly abound.

Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. His life on earth was oftimes troubled like the waters from his youthful days.

We believe he died in that peace the Lord gives and he so dearly loved and found momentarily between the rolling waves.

In all things he was given to remember his divine Creator and was blessed to preach His sovereignty over all His creation.

Through faith that is counted for righteousness, he was given a sincere obedience in life and conversation.

Brother King was a modest man. His humble character and personality won as much admiration and respect as any man I ever knew.

As minister, farmer and businessman, husband, and father in Israel, the light of the Lord by faith shined through.

The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life. The memory of the just is blessed, and we cherish the memories of him that lingers in our mind.

He was cautious not to offend; his words were fitly spoken, and he treated us with brotherly love and fellowship from a heart so kind.

Just a few days before the death angel called, he spoke so sweetly at our communion table at Bush Arbor, saying for some precious ones this service would be the last.

We believe he felt in his heart that before our next meeting, from this wilderness of sin and sorrow he would pass.

In the beginning the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone; He so graciously brought a precious one into our brother's life.

Sister Bronna K. King, his helpmeet for more than 49 years, a lovely sister, a true, humble, and devoted wife.

We rejoiced when he retired from business; and they moved back home to their Green Valley farm.

Where he and his precious companion lived as one and so dearly loved the peace and calm.

Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord; their works do follow them. Preacher King, as he was known by so many, leaves a legend.

The youth of this day will be told many things the Lord blessed Preacher King to say and do throughout this region.

I haven't forgotten the darkest hours of my tribulations when I felt my world had come to an end;

The flowers of love he so freely gave that made me feel that even I had a friend.

At his funeral the precious ones he felt to be his sons in the ministry, spoke so sweetly of his life, ascribing all honor and praise to the great I AM.

Our brother believed in the sovereign grace of the King of Saints who blessed him to sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb.

That sad day as I left the cemetery, my heart sank within me as I looked upon the huge mound of beautiful flowers.

They covered the grave of my beloved pastor only a few steps from the pulpit where he spent so many precious hours.

I said within me, you have finished your course; now take your peaceful rest, for our heartaches and sorrows remain.

It was hard to give you up. Yet, we feel our grievous loss is your blessed eternal gain.

We esteemed our brother and pastor most highly in love, and now we are very sad, as we bow in humble submission and thank the heavenly Father for the blessings we have had.

In this wilderness land, I fly low and mourn as the dove.

The tears fill my eyes as I try to write this, I hope, in the bonds of Christian love.

Whether we walked in the valley of despair or from the mountain top we wanted to sing; we would find a heart-felt love and warm welcome from Elder Curry King.

—Clifton Robertson

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Matthew 25:21—"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Psalm 17:15—"I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

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